

In Essay
On
Chimaphila Umbellata
Respectfully submitted to the faculty
of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
of
Pennsylvania

On the 31st day of January
One thousand eight hundred & fifty three

By
Thos. J. Pratt

of
Canton

Bradford Co
Penn^a

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Chimaphila Umbellata is a small evergreen plant, with a perennial, creeping, yellowish root, which sends off numerous radicles.

When chewed, it imparts to the taste a pleasantly bitter, astringent, and sweetish taste, with considerable degree of pungency.

When fresh and bruised, it exhales a peculiar, unpleasant odour.

The stems arise generally several together from the root, are generally erect, though frequently found semi-procumbent. They vary in height from six to ten inches, and are lignous at the base.

The Leaves, though generally whorled are sometimes irregularly situated.

They are slightly cancellated, wedge-

shaped, narrowed at the base, deeply serrated on their edges, coriaceous, smooth, and of a deep green colour on the upper surface, paler beneath.

The ^{upper} flowers are terminal, disposed in a small corymb, and supported on nodding peduncles.

The ^{upper} calyx is small, persistent, and divided into five segments.

The ^{upper} corolla is made up of five rounded, concave petals, of a white colour tinged with red, and emit a very agreeable odour.

There are ten stamens, with awl-shaped filaments which are shorter than the petals, with large, bifurcated, purple anthers.

The ^{upper} germ is oval, angular, and of a pale green colour.

The stigma is thick, and slit perist-
ant.

The seeds are very numerous and chaffy,
and enclosed in an oval five-valved calyx.

Chimaphila is indigenous
both in America and Europe.

It grows abundantly in all parts of
the United States, in pine forests
and woodlands enriched by the
decay of successive crops of leaves.

It flourishes with the greatest
vigor in a cool, sandy, soil, and under
the shade of trees.

It flowers in June and July.

It is known in the various sections
of this country by the names of Winter
green, Prince's-pine, Ground-holly, Pip-
isivog, Etc.

All parts of the plant are possessed of active, medicinal properties.

In allopathic practice it has been used as a diuretic, tonic and astringent, more especially as a diuretic.

The following provings were made from a tincture prepared from the entire plant by maceration.

Proving by T. S. Pratt.

Oct 23^d 1852. Took 5 drops M. Tincture at 9 o'clock P.M.

24th at 10 A.M. Feeling of fullness and pressure in the head, with sharp stitches in the left temple, and over the left eye, relieved by walking in the open air. In the afternoon slight vertigo with a feeling of sickness and

Trembling. 24th Repeated the dose at 1 P.M.
25th Dull heavy feeling of the head coming
on soon after rising and continuing all
day. with sharp stitches through the
head worse in left temple and over the left
eye better in the open air. Sharp cutting
pains in the right knee. Fullness and
pressure at the root of the nose. Erratic
stitches worse in the chest and extremities
Oct 25th at 9 P.M. Took ten drops

Was very restless through the night with
nausea and headache. 26th Headache
continued becoming worse in the afternoon
with trembling and nausea. Dull compress-
ive feeling in the chest. with shooting cutting
pains in various parts. Esp. in the chest and
extremities. Weakness of the lower extremities
when walking. Soreness of the left forearm
as if bruised. Bitter taste in the mouth

in the evening

Oct 27th Repeated the dose at 9 A.M.

Feeling of warmth in the stomach soon after taking the medicine with nausea, and headache, continuing all day. Sensation of coldness and shuddering in the lower extremities when sitting with beating or pulsation in the thorax and abdomen.

Itching and pricking of the skin esp. in a warm room with small red pimples on the face and neck.

1 O'clock P.M. Sharp lancinating pain in the region of the heart shooting to the left shoulder and down left ~~fore~~ arm. Dull aching feeling in the whole chest with short hacking cough excited by tickling in the chest. worse in the evening.

28th Took 20 drops at 9 A.M.

Violent headache all day with cutting
erratic pains worse in the extremities
chest and head. Feeling of pressure in
the temples from without inwards as if
they would be pressed in. Sensation of heaviness
and weight of the right arm. Oppression
of the chest with dull aching uneasy feeling
through the whole thorax. dry hacking
cough excited by tickling at the top of
the sternum. Cutting erratic pains in every
part of the system worse in the afternoon
and relieved by walking in the open air

29th Hemoptysis of a small quantity of bright
red blood when first rising in the morning
with dull aching pains in the chest

At 4 O'clock P.M. Dull compressive feeling
in the left chest near the center of the 6th
and 7th ribs occasionally extending around to
the right hypochondrium and back to the

Spine giving the sensation of a band around the chest and causing me to bend over towards the left side. which changed towards evening to a dull, compressive, pain in the whole thorax with short dry cough occasioned by a sensation of dryness in the chest. Small red pimples on the face neck and back which bleed easily when scratched remaining for several days. Pimples on the hands principally between the fingers filled with a watery fluid which remained about two days.

The above symptoms were felt more or less for about six days when they disappeared entirely.

Proving by Geo W Ingham

Oct-25th 1852. Took five drops M. Tincture
of Chimaphila at 9 O'clock P.M.

Awoke about 12 O'clock at night - with pain
in the back part of the head and right
elbow was very restless during the remainder
of the night -

On the 26th Had violent headache with
sharp cutting pains in the superior maxillary
of left side and in the temple and eye of the
same side with nausea and sensation of
shuddering in the teeth like that caused
by filing or sawing

Repeated the dose on 26th at 9 P.M.

Was very restless and uneasy during the night
with frequent starting from sleep

27th Burning pains in the left chest. Sharp
cutting pains in the left elbow shooting down

the arm to the fingers. Lancinating pains
in the left side shooting up to the shoulder
Burning in the region of the kidneys with
a sick faint feeling and frequent and scar-
city emission of dark coloured urine

Aching lame feeling of the left foot and
ankle with a dull heavy pain commen-
cing in the left chest and extending to
the right - with a sensation of burning
over the whole body

Oct-27th Took ten drops at 10 P.M

28th Dull heavy pain in the whole upper
part of the chest extending down to the
center of the sternum with occasional
sharp stitches through the chest and
oppression of breathing

Sensation of a band around the head with
acute cutting pains in the left temple
shooting to the left eye and ear and down

The back of the neck

Sharp cutting pain in the lumbar region
Extending down the course of the ureter
with frequent and scanty emission of dark
red urin which continued for several days after
taking the medicine

Proving by Stacy Jones

Took Chinaphila several times during
a week

The first symptom noticed was to frequent and scanty emission of clear watery urin. After wards weakness of the joints esp of the knees when walking. pains in the knee ankle and small joints excited by walking. Stitches in the temples. Sickness at the stomach a short time after taking a dose of the medicine Erratic Stitches were in the chest

Proving by Geo. E. C. Sparkhawk
Decr 17th 1852 Took ten drops. M. Linet at
11 O'clock P.M.

Produced soon after taking burning in the
throat with nausea which lasted sometime
Decr 18th Headache in the occiput on rising
in the morning lasting a few hours

9 A.M. Took five drops. nausea and feeling
of weakness and sickness all day with some
pain in the head worse from looking steady
at anything. Aching deep in the eyes
Decr 18th Pimples came out over the face
esp. on the eyebrows and root of the nose
which remained several days

Summary

Symptoms of the head

ⁱⁿ Fullness and pressure in the head with sharp lancinating pains mostly in the left temple and over the left eye which are relieved by walking in the open air. Full heavy feeling in the head. Pressure in the temples from without-inwards. Sensation of a band around the head. Shooting pains in the left temple extending to the ear and eye of the same side and down the back of the neck. Headache which ^{is} aggravated by looking steady at anything.

Eyes

Acute cutting pains in the left eye. Aching deep in the eyes.

Mouth and Throat

Burning in the throat. Bitter taste in the mouth.

Gastric Symptoms

Sick faint feeling in the stomach

Feeling of warmth in the stomach with nausea nausea lasting all day

Hypochondria and Abdomen

Beating or pulsation in the abdomen

Burning in the lumbar region. Sharp cutting pains in the right lumbar region extending down the course of the ureter

Urinary Organs

Frequent and scanty emission of watery urine
Emission of dark coloured urine

Upper Extremities

Erratic stitches in the arms. Lancinating pains in the left shoulder extending down the arm. Lancinating in the elbows. Lancinating in the left elbow extending down the arm to the fingers. Feeling of weight and heaviness of the right arm. Soreness of the left fore arm as if bruised.

Lower Extremities

Sharp cutting pains in the right knee. Weakness of the legs esp. when walking. Erratic stitches in the legs which are relieved by walking. feeling of coldness and shuddering of the lower extremities when sitting. Aching lame feeling in the left foot and ankle. Weakness of the knee when walking. pains in the knee, ankle, and small joints, excited by walking.

Chest

Cutting, erratic, pains in the chest.
Dull aching pains in the chest with
oppression when rising in the morning.

Sharp lancinating in the region of
the heart. Shooting to left shoulder
throbbing in the the thorax.

Haemoptysis of bright red blood when rising
in the morning with dull aching pains
through the whole chest. Dry Shaking
cough excited by tickling in the chest.

Dull compressive pain in the left chest at
the center of the 6th and 7th ribs occasionally
extending nearly around the chest giving the
sensation of a band around the chest, which
changed towards evening to a dull compressive
feeling in the whole thorax, with short dry
cough, excited by feeling of dryness in the chest.
Burning pain in the left chest.

Sleep

Frequent waking from sleep. with restlessness and tossing about

ⁱⁿ Fever

Burning over the whole body esp at night

Skin

Biting and itching over the body worse at night. Small red pimples on the face which bleed easily. Watery blisters on the hands esp. between the fingers

I regret very much the imperfection of the proving. but owing to unavoidable circumstances it is the best I could obtain

Respectfully Submitted
J. J. P.